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Birmingham Chamber of Commerce
April 17, 1962

It would not be fitting for me, a stranger, to extol the merits of your metropolis. ~~But~~ In my own country, its namesake, Birmingham, is the largest city in Alabama, one of ~~the~~ our leading steel-making communities, ~~in my country.~~

Your history, especially during and after the Eighteenth Century, is intriguing. Not only have you a great industrial complex, but with it are associated the names of eminent scientists, inventors, engineers, and philosophers, statesmen. Boulton, Darwin, Priestley, Edgeworth, Wedgwood, Watt, the Chamberlains, and many others. Moreover, the interest taken by your citizens in public affairs is well known on the other side of the Atlantic, as is their achievements in cultural enterprises.

For a long time, the United States has maintained a Consulate here. Your concerns are, in many respects, common to both our countries, and reflect mutuality on an international scale. Let us pass to a larger scene.

What are the particulars in which the United Kingdom and the United States confront a common destiny? I suppose the ~~paramount answer is in the domain~~ of foreign policy.

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It is often assumed that foreign policy is a reflection of security imperatives. Once, this might have been true. Today, its implications ~~involve~~ all facets of national life. Perhaps, the most important are those of economic, military and political significance.

If you will permit me, I shall dwell, as briefly as possible, on these points.

The economies of the United Kingdom and the United States are vastly different. We have a large internal market, supplied by the output of

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186 million